

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,980,054 to Fukui et al. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 5,980,054 to Fukui et al. in view of United States Patent No. 5,894,539 to Epstein. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Fukui et al. reference, alone or in combination with the Epstein reference, fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of the present invention. In particular, the Fukui et al. reference fails to disclose a lighting apparatus that includes, *inter alia*, a linear photoconductor in which “planes of the plural light reflection portions [are] relatively tilted at a plurality of different angles” that are configured such that either “the light is converged on a viewpoint” (Claims 1 and 29) or “the light exits substantially vertically to the longitudinal direction of the linear photoconductor” (Claims 2 and 30).

Briefly, in the present invention defined in independent Claims 1, 2, 29 and 30, the planes of the plural light reflection portions are respectively tilted at a plurality of different angles so it is possible to obtain a more uniform light intensity distribution from a viewpoint than with prior art devices. Therefore, with the present invention, the display characteristics are improved.

In contrast, in the device of the Fukui et al. reference, the surfaces of the plurality of grooves 6 are all tilted at a uniform angle. In other words, the inclined surfaces 12 and 13 are each tilted at a uniform angle (θ_1 or θ_2). Thus, with the device of the Fukui et al. reference, the light exits in various directions, making a light intensity distribution at a viewpoint that is not uniform. Accordingly, with the device of the Fukui et al. reference, the display characteristics are not as good as those of the present invention.

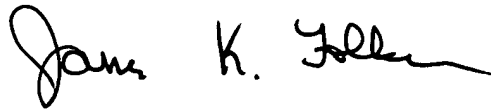
In light of these differences between the present invention and the Fukui et al. reference, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this §102(b) rejection of independent Claims 2 and 30, and associated dependent Claims 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, and 28.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the Epstein reference fails to disclose or suggest the features discussed above with respect to the Fukui et al. reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the §103 rejection of independent Claims 1 and 29, and associated dependent Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, and 27.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claimed invention. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would aid in the prosecution of the application, or that outstanding issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.



By

James K. Folker
Registration No. 37,538

July 28, 2003

Suite 2500
300 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 360-0080

Customer No. 24978

K:\1111\66277\Amd A.doc